

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL MAJOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM (AFP)

The Department's first involvement in asset forfeiture dates back to 1985 when it participated in two asset forfeiture cases. Since then, the Department has been averaging approximately 450 cases a year. The primary mission of the AFP is to deprive drug traffickers of the means to manufacture, process, and distribute illicit drugs. Additionally, by sharing a percentage of the assets with allied agencies through Memoranda of Understanding, the Department has fostered excellent relations with allied agencies and financially assisted less affluent law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The Department has made a meaningful contribution to the National War on Drugs. Since the first forfeiture, the Department has seized over \$91,000,000 and has been awarded over \$13,768,000.

DEPARTMENTAL CANINE PROGRAM (DCP)

The DCP was established in 1986 and became fully operational in early 1987. The objective of the program is to assist officers and enhance highway drug interdiction efforts by utilizing canines to locate drugs being transported in passenger and commercial vehicles. Additionally, two canine teams are dedicated "explosive detection" canines utilized to protect state officials and other state facilities in the Sacramento metropolitan area. Currently, there are 41 canine teams assigned in the following statewide locations:

Location	Number of Canines
Northern Division	5
Valley Division	4
Golden Gate Division	4
Central Division	4
Border Division	11
Coastal Division	2
Inland Division	8
Protective Services Division	2

In order to assure program success, locate illegal contraband, protect the handler and capture dangerous felons, Investigative Services Section (ISS) developed a comprehensive, time-intensive training regimen for both the canine and handler. Utmost care and consideration is given when researching and evaluating legal issues, safety, and the health and welfare of the canine and handler. ISS develops policies and procedures to coordinate all aspects surrounding the DCP statewide.

The Departmental Canine Trainer/Coordinator is responsible for developing training standards and uniformity throughout the canine program to ensure proficiency. Not only does the coordinator conduct annual training for all trainers/coordinators, ISS ensures goals are met by providing ongoing training, evaluating the DCPs' capabilities, and tracking the history of canines and handlers by maintaining meticulous computer database records.

Due to the growth of the DCP, Division Canine Trainer (CT) positions were created in 1997. The CTs conduct monthly maintenance training for each team which includes policies and procedures, skills training requirements, and the preparation of monthly proficiency reports.

As the canine teams gained experience and became more proficient, seizures increased. From 1996 through 1998, these canine teams seized 67,011 pounds of illicit drugs having a street value of \$628,946,176 and \$16,540,185 in drug related currency. These figures do not include the value of other drug related properties used in the commission of the crime; e.g., houses, vehicles, etc.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MARIJUANA PLANTING PROGRAM (CAMP)

CAMP is a multiagency task force composed of representatives from 32 counties. These local, state, and federal resources were organized for the express purpose of discouraging and diminishing marijuana cultivation and trafficking in California. Moreover, CAMP promotes public information and education efforts to inform citizens of problems associated with marijuana cultivation. The Department has participated in CAMP since its inception in 1983.

The Department's commitment is to annually provide half the funds for overtime salaries (which are obtained from the asset forfeiture account) and 18 uniformed personnel. The participating personnel will assume a variety of roles including the following:

- Reconnaissance and Arrest Team (C-RAT) member.
- Assistant Regional Operations Commander (AROC).
- Observation/Eradication team members.

Drug Task Force (DTF) Program

California suffers a significant portion of the nation's illicit drug trade. Conventional law enforcement methods have failed to stem the importation, cultivation, and manufacture of these illegal substances. As a result, many agencies, including the CHP, are combining their personnel, intelligence, and resources into multiagency task forces in an attempt to impact this problem.

The Department's first involvement with drug task forces began in 1983, with Humboldt Area's participation on a task force in Humboldt County. From this initial involvement, as the nature of the drug problem began to increase in California, the Department's role in the drug enforcement arena began to increase. This has included acquiring drug detection canines, pursuing asset forfeitures from drug-related enforcement activities, and training enforcement personnel in drug interdiction techniques.

Currently, the Department is involved in over 25 different drug task forces. By pooling their resources, the exchange of information between multiple agencies and task forces provides for a more effective avenue to impact the flow of drugs.

On-Highway Drug Interdiction

The Department's participation in on-highway drug interdiction started in 1985 on a limited basis and has expanded to a statewide training program then known as Operation Pipeline. The purpose is to provide current information to officers in the field pertaining to drug trafficking indicators, officer safety concerns, and trends in concealment methods. Early in 1995, a database was established to track pipeline seizures and arrests. This information is made available to other agencies and has resulted in warrants issued and seizures made due to information obtained by CHP officers.

The California Highway Patrol's Investigative Services Section (ISS) has developed and maintains a level of expertise in related case law decisions affecting highway drug interdictions and associated operations plans. As intelligence information is developed by CHP, it is disseminated to the field, DOJ, El Paso Intelligence Center, United States Customs Service, Western States Information Network, Drug Enforcement Agency, and various other state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

UNITED STATES DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) TASK FORCE

The CHP's participation in federal drug task forces was initiated in order to address the overwhelming evidence that illicit drugs have a substantial and detrimental effect on the health and general welfare of California's citizens. Furthermore, it was recognized that a majority of all drug transactions involve currency which must be converted or concealed in order to disguise its true source. This presents officers with the unique opportunity to not only focus on those individuals and organizations involved in the illicit distribution of illegal drugs, but also inhibit their financial ability to continue their illicit trade. The Department has three officers assigned to three United States DEA Task Forces. The task forces were formed in an effort to more effectively utilize federal, state, and local law enforcement resources to combat illicit drug activity.

The task forces disrupt the illicit drug trafficking by immobilizing targeted violators and drug trafficking organizations — investigating and pursuing those individuals and organizations at the highest levels so as to achieve the maximum impact of both federal and state statutes relating to the forfeiture of drug related assets.